

## ABSTRACT

A method and apparatus for facilitating the translation of a digital message between natural languages utilizes a pivot language as an intermediate representation of the original natural language. Conversion of the digital message from the original natural language into the pivot language may include parsing into linguistic units, translating into unique concepts, and validating the translation. The digital message may be electronically communicated to a recipient in a pivot language for subsequent translation or in the target natural language after translation. The digital message may take the form of electronic mail or an instant message. An applet that initiates translation to the target natural language may be attached to the digital message. The apparatus may include a conversion module for translating from a natural language to a pivot language and a communication module. The apparatus may additionally include a speech recognition module and/or a speech synthesis module.

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